



In this Quick Reference Guide, we will preview how GSA customer agencies can utilize the RWA Digital Signature Solution integrated with RETA/eRETA. The digital signature solution can be used regardless if customer agencies use eRETA to submit RWAs to GSA or if they fill out the RWA 2957 Form PDF.

*Last revision: 4/25/2017* 

#### **Summary of RETA/eRETA Digital Signature Solution**

This User Guide introduces external customer agency users to the RWA Digital Signature Solution that allow for customer agencies to digitally sign RWAs. This user guide will provide instructions and screenshots on *how* to apply a digital signature to any new or amended RWA. Definitions for numerous fields are available in eRETA by clicking on the linked field title to launch the eRETA Glossary. Searchable fields can be drilled down through the magnifying glass symbol within eRETA.

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#### 1) Integrated Digital Signature Solution

RETA/eRETA has teamed up with the Digital Signature Solution (DSS) team who was tasked with developing an enterprise-wide digital signature solution for multiple GSA applications. RETA/eRETA was the first GSA-PBS application to pilot the new functionality and is now the first to go-live with this integrated solution. The DSS team has utilized e-SignLive (eSL) software as the delivery agent for the RWA Program's digital signature solution.

#### A high level overview of the digital signature workflow is outlined in the following bullets:

- The Customer Agency Fund Certifying Official will have the option to digitally sign or manually sign block 18A. GSA encourages use of the digital signature functionality but is not requiring customer agencies to utilize it at this time.
- The GSA-PBS Approving Official will be required to use the digital signature functionality to sign block 28A. There will no longer be a manual, pen and ink signature option for PBS signatures.
- Instead of gathering signatures "in the middle" of the process, all RWA information must be entered and validated in RETA first. Once done, the GSA Data Entry user will route the RWA for digital signature(s) by selecting the "Request Signatures" button on the "PBS Approval" tab.
- Customer and GSA signers will receive an email from eSL which will provide a link for them to apply their digital signature.
- Signers do NOT need RETA/eRETA access to apply a digital signature
- Once all signature(s) are applied, eSL sends the completed 2957 Form back to RETA/eRETA.
   RETA submits the RWA to GSA's financial management system (Pegasys) and uploads a copy of the signed 2957 Form to the RETA Documentation Tool. Lastly, RETA sends an email to the GSA Data Entry user who initiated the request for signatures to inform them they can now send the RWA Acceptance Letter.

28A. GSA Approving Official's Signature e-Signed by Steve Sacco on 2017-03-01	
28C. GSA Approving Official's Phone Number	28D. GSA Approving Official's Name
(202) 208-6177	Steve Sacco

Digital Signature name and time stamp on the RWA 2957 Form





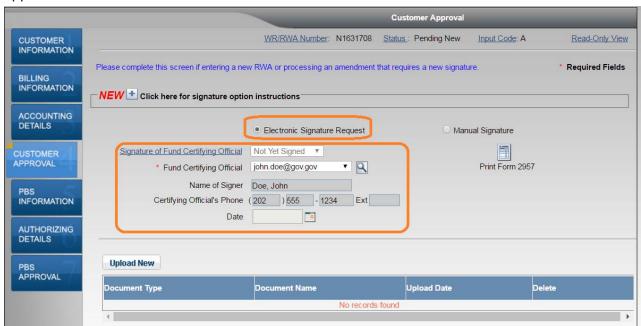
### 1a) Customer Agency Signature Options (for new RWAs)

The Customer Agency Fund Certifying Official will have the option to digitally sign or manually sign block 18A. GSA encourages use of the digital signature functionality but is not requiring customer agencies to utilize it at this time.

### 1ai) "Electronic Signature Request" Option

If the customer agency opts to sign block 18A electronically, they can denote this request in block 18A or 18C of the RWA 2957 Form by writing "request to sign digitally" instead of signing their name. Alternatively, if the customer agency is using the new eRETA data entry capabilities to enter their RWA into the RETA/eRETA application directly, they would select the "Electronic Signature Request" radio button on the "Customer Approval" tab (see below).

When the Electronic Signature Request Option is selected, RETA/eRETA will only require the email address of the Fund Certifying Official. This individual will receive an email to apply his/her signature once the RWA is routed for signatures by GSA. The signature status will display as "Not Yet Signed" and the signature date will remain blank until the digital signature is applied.



Customer Approval tab with the Electronic Signature Request radio button selected



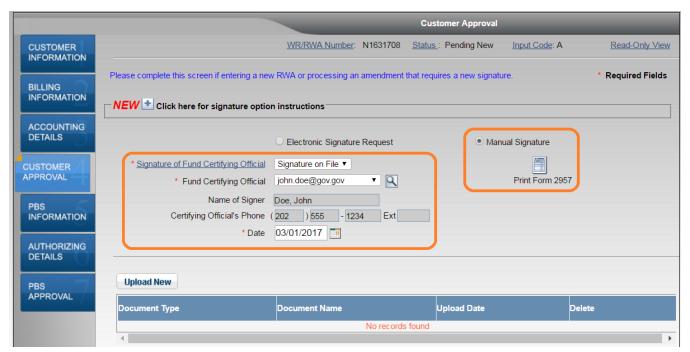




### 1aii) "Manual Signature" Option

If the customer agency opts to manually sign the RWA 2957 form in block 18A (aka, pen and ink signature) they should sign the form as usual and send page 1 of the RWA 2957 Form once fully complete and signed. Alternatively, if the customer agency is using the new eRETA data entry capabilities to enter their RWA into the RETA/eRETA application directly, they would select the "Manual Signature" radio button on the "Customer Approval" tab and then upload a scanned copy of the manually signed RWA 2957 Form into RETA/eRETA.

When the Manual Signature Option is selected, RETA/eRETA will require the RETA/eRETA user to indicate that the signature status is "On File" (meaning a signed copy exists and has been uploaded into RETA/eRETA or emailed to GSA). Furthermore, the Fund Certifying Official email address (block 18D) and the Fund Certification Signature Date (block 18B) must be filled out in the appropriate RETA/eRETA fields. The values must match identically between the manually completed and uploaded RWA 2957 Form and what was entered in RETA/eRETA.



Customer Approval tab with the Manual Signature radio button selected



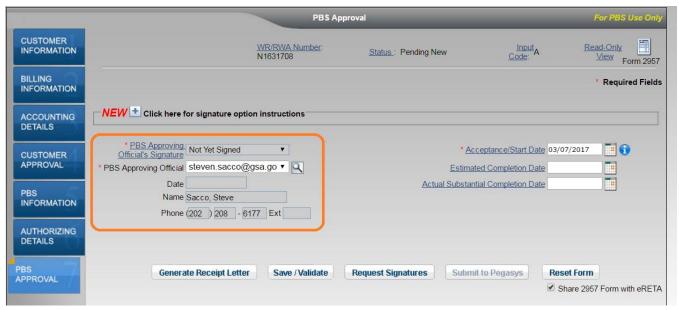




### 1b) GSA Digital Signature Required (for new RWAs)

The GSA-PBS Approving Official will be required to use the digital signature functionality to sign block 28A. There will no longer be a manual, pen and ink signature option for PBS. On the "PBS Approval" tab, RETA will only require the email address of the GSA-PBS Approving Official. This individual will receive an email to apply his/her signature once the RWA is routed for signatures. The signature status will display as "Not Yet Signed" and the signature date will remain blank until the digital signature is applied.

NOTE: The RWA Acceptance/Start Date and Actual Substantial Completion Date (if a severable service = Yes) will continue to be required fields on the "PBS Approval" tab.



PBS Approving Official signature blocks on the PBS Approval tab



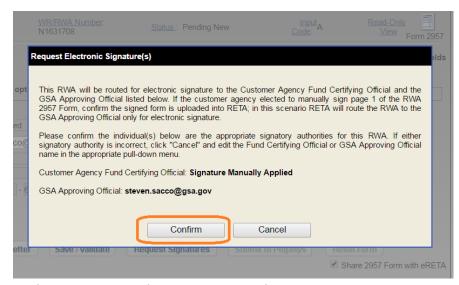
#### 1c) Digital Signature Routing (GSA Action Only)

Instead of gathering signatures "in the middle" of the process, all RWA information must be entered and validated across all seven RETA/eRETA data entry tabs first. Once done, the GSA Data Entry user will route the RWA for digital signature(s) by selecting the "Request Signatures" button on the "PBS Approval" tab. *NOTE: the "Submit to Pegasys" button will be disabled until signatures are applied.* 



Signatures button will route the RWA for signatures, the Submit to Pegasys button is disabled

A confirmation message will be presented to the GSA Data Entry user to confirm who will receive an email to apply their digital signature to the RWA. If the Customer Agency Fund Certifying Official applied their signature manually (aka pen and ink), the confirmation message will indicate that their signature was "Manually Applied" and route the signature request only to the GSA Approving Official. Clicking "Confirm" will begin the signature routing process.



Confirmation message of who will receive notification to apply their digital signature to the RWA



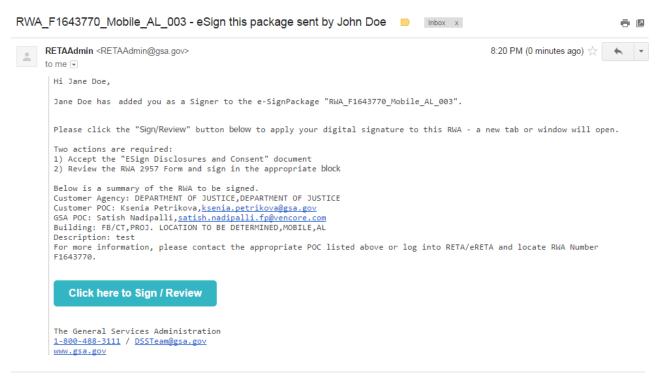




#### 1d) e-SignLive (eSL) Automated Emails

Once the GSA RETA Data Entry user routes the RWA for signature(s), the customer agency Fund Certifying Official (if they opted in for digital signature), and afterwards, the GSA-PBS Approving Official, will receive an email from eSL to apply their digital signature to the RWA. The email will include a simple summary of the RWA they are being requested to sign, along with simple instructions on how to apply their digital signature.

If the customer agency Fund Certifying Official manually signed the RWA previously, then only the GSA-PBS Approving Official will receive the automatic email from eSL. If the customer agency Fund Certifying Official opted in to digitally sign the RWA, they will receive the automatic email from eSL first. Once their signature is applied, the GSA-PBS Approving Official will then be sent the eSL email second.



Sample email from e-SignLive to RWA Signatory Authorities requesting them to digitally sign the RWA







#### 1e) Applying Digital Signatures to the RWA in e-SignLive

NOTE: RETA/eRETA access is NOT required to apply a digital signature. Signatures will be applied directly in e-SignLive which does not require a unique user ID or password.

The process of applying a digital signature to an RWA is identical for both the customer agency Fund Certifying Official and the GSA-PBS Approving Official. The steps are as follows:

- 1) Click on the "Click here to Sign/Review" button from the automated eSL email
- 2) A new eSL tab or window will open taking the signer to an "eSign Disclosures and Consent" page where if they consent to having their digital signature captured, they will click the Agree button
- 3) Upon agreeing, eSL will take the signer to a copy of the RWA 2957 Form and guide them to apply their signature in the appropriate block. Clicking the "yellow sticky" will apply their digital signature and capture the date and time of the signature.

Once the GSA-PBS Approving Official applies his/her signature, eSL will generate an email containing a link to download the final RWA 2957 Form with all signatures applied. The email will be automatically sent to all digital signers and the GSA Data Entry User who first routed the RWA for signature.

NOTE: If the customer agency manually signs the RWA, only the GSA signer will receive eSL emails



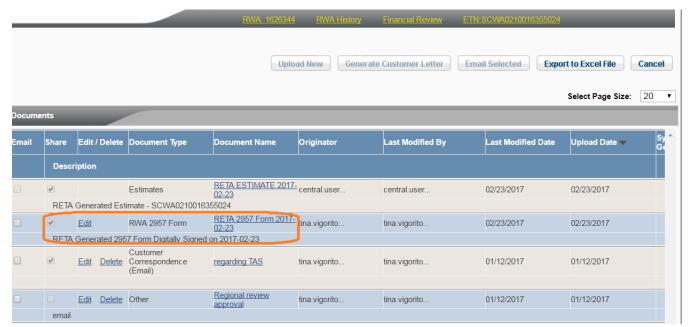
RWA 2957 Form awaiting the GSA Approving Official to apply his/her signature in e-SignLive





# 1f) Automatic Submission of RWAs to Pegasys and Automatic Uploading of Signed RWA to RETA/eRETA Documentation Tool

Once all signature(s) are applied, eSL sends the completed 2957 Form back to RETA/eRETA. RETA/eRETA updates the signature date(s) in the appropriate field(s) of the RWA and then submits the RWA to Pegasys (or submits the RWA to an "In Queue" status if the Pegasys-RETA Interface is offline). Furthermore, RETA/eRETA will automatically upload a copy the digitally signed 2957 Form to the Documentation Tool.



Copy of the Digitally Signed RWA 2957 Form automatically uploaded to the RETA/eRETA Documentation Tool

### 1g) Automatic RETA email to GSA Data Entry User to Issue Acceptance Letter

Once RETA uploads a copy of the digitally signed RWA 2957 Form to the Documentation Tool, RETA will then send an automatic email to the GSA Data Entry user who initiated the request for signatures. This email will instruct the GSA Data Entry user to log into RETA, pull up the RWA that was just signed, and generate the RWA Acceptance Letter to be sent to the appropriate contacts.





#### 1h) When New Signatures are Required vs Optional on RWA Amendments

RETA will require signatures for all new RWAs (A-input code) and for any RWA amendment (H- or X-input code) where one of the following fields <u>changes</u> from the previous RWA submission:

- authorized amount increase/decrease,
- customer fund year,
- customer fund type,
- customer fund expiration,
- customer Fund Certifying Official email address selected, or
- GSA-PBS Approving Official email address selected

When one of these fields is changed on an amendment, the "Submit to Pegasys" button on the "PBS Approval" tab will be disabled and the "Request Signature" button will be enabled, requiring the RWA to be routed for signature again. It will be important to identify how the customer agency Fund Certifying Official wishes to sign the amendment so GSA can make the appropriate selection on the "Customer Approval" tab – digital signature or manual signature radio button – and then the customer agency signature can be gathered appropriately.

NOTE #1: The GSA Data Entry user can optionally choose to route any other RWA amendment for new signatures – even when one of the key fields above is not changed

NOTE #2: The customer agency Fund Certifying Official does not need to apply his/her signature in the same fashion on every amendment. If they manually signed the initial RWA, they can opt to digitally sign the next amendment and vice versa.

NOTE #3: If a customer agency eRETA user or GSA RETA user accidentally changes one of the above fields that will require new signatures, the amendment will have to be deleted and re-started in order to properly process an administrative amendment that does not require new signatures.





#### 2) Signature History Tab

A new "Signature History" tab will be added to the "RWA History" screen for all RWAs. This tab will capture the signature history of all RWA transactions that require a signature after RETA 7.7 goes live in May 2017. The tab identifies what GSA Data Entry User initiated the signature request and when, the date and timestamp of the customer agency signer (or left blank if the customer manually signed the RWA), as well as the date and timestamp of the GSA signer. Also available is the "Evidence Summary" which is recorded by e-SignLive and uploaded into RETA after the signature routing process completes. The Evidence Summary captures information about each signer including the IP Address of the computer from which they applied their signature along with the date and timestamp their signature was applied.



Signature History tab displaying the history of digital signatures applied to the RWA







# 3) RWAs Locked When Awaiting Signatures; Abandoning a Digital Signature Request (GSA Action Only)

When an RWA is routed for signature, the RWA is locked and no additional edits can be made to the RWA until the signature routing process is complete (after all digital signatures are applied). RETA will display a status of "Signature-Requested" to indicate that the RWA is locked and currently awaiting for all digital signatures to be applied.

However, there may be an instance where an RWA is routed for digital signatures by the GSA Data Entry user and shortly after that a mistake was noted or a missing piece of data was identified that was not entered on the RWA currently being routed for signature. Any GSA Data Entry user in the region that 'owns' the RWA can halt the signature request by clicking the "Abandon Signature Request" button on the Customer Information tab (new, A-input code RWAs) or the RWA Summary screen (all amendments). After confirming this is the action desired, RETA will revert the RWA back to Pending-New or Pending-Mod status and allow additional changes to the RWA. The e-SignLive email previously sent to the customer and/or GSA signatory authorities will not be retracted, however any signatures they apply to that now abandoned request will not be sent back in to RETA.

Once all additional edits are made, the GSA Data Entry user can then route the RWA for signature again. The RWA signatory authorities will receive a new e-SignLive email to apply their digital signature. While the subject line will have a new sequential number in it to differentiate it from the abandoned signature request, it is recommended that the GSA Data Entry user send an email to the signatory authorities as well just to let them know of the situation. We anticipate this scenario to be rare.



RWAs awaiting digital signatures will carry a status of "Sig-Requested"; the "Abandon Signature" button allows a GSA Data Entry user to halt the signature process to make additional changes to the RWA

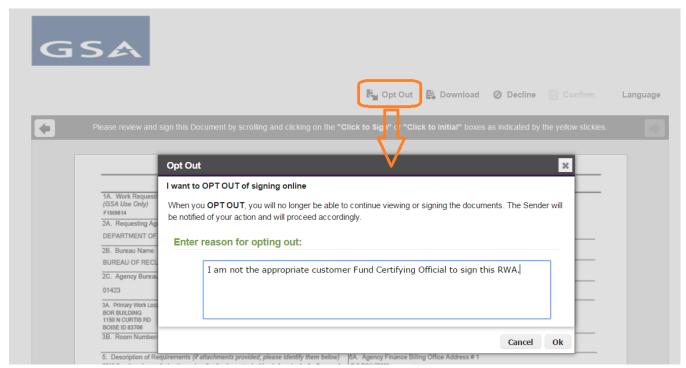




#### 4) Signatory Authority "Opting Out" of a Digital Signature Request

As mentioned in section 1e above, digital signers must consent to the "eSign Disclosures and Consent" form first before they can apply their signature to the RWA 2957 Form. Any signer however can choose to "Opt Out" of applying their digital signature, either to the disclosure consent form or the RWA 2957 Form. To do so, the signer would click the "Opt Out" button in e-SignLive. Doing so will require the signer to enter a justification for why they are opting out of applying their digital signature. Once the justification is entered, eSL will send an email back to the GSA Data Entry user who initiated the signature process informing them of the signer who opted out along with the justification they entered.

The RWA at this point will return to its previous status of Pending-New or Pending-Mod and the GSA Data Entry user will then re-route the RWA for digital signatures again – after first resolving any issues that may have caused the signer to opt out of signing the RWA in the first place.



A signatory authority chooses to 'opt out' of applying his/her digital signature







#### 5) Other Electronic RWA Features Offered by GSA

In addition to digital signatures, the May 2017 RETA/eRETA release allows customer agencies to enter RWA Work Requests and/or all of their RWA information (the equivalent to page 1 of the RWA 2957 Form) directly into eRETA. This new electronic workflow allows customer agencies to enter requests for new projects or services, obtain a unique tracking number, and route it to the appropriate GSA region immediately. GSA will then assign a project manager shortly thereafter to begin developing the project/service needs. Additionally, eRETA allows customer agencies to enter their entire RWA directly into GSA's RWA database, ensuring data is correctly entered and not mistakenly omitted. RETA/eRETA is also the source of many of the data elements printed on RWA billing statements.

For more information on entering Work Request and RWAs directly into GSA's RWA database (RETA/eRETA), please visit <a href="www.gsa.gov/ereta">www.gsa.gov/ereta</a>. This site has User Guides and Training Videos available for download. Additionally, in May and June 2017, links to sign up for live training demonstrations will be available.

### 6) Ways Customer Agencies Can Adopt Electronic RWA Processing

#### 1) Entirely manual (existing way)- 0% electronic

- contact GSA by phone/email/in person with project/service need,
- GSA Project Manager (PM) is assigned,
- work on requirements with GSA PM,
- fill out page 1 of the PDF 2957 Form,
- sign it with pen and ink,
- send to GSA for Receipt and eventual Acceptance

#### 2) Digital Signature Only - 25% electronic

- contact GSA by phone/email/in person with project/service need,
- GSA PM is assigned,
- work on requirements, fill out page 1 of PDF 2957 Form,
- request to sign page 1 digitally (customer signatory authority will receive email to apply digital signature to RWA after all data on pages 1 and 2 is entered and validated first),
- RWA acceptance happens once both digital signatures (customer and GSA) are captured and automatically sent back to RETA

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### 6) Ways Customer Agencies Can Adopt Electronic RWA Processing, con't

#### 3) Electronic Data Entry "Lite" - 75% electronic

- "contact" GSA by entering the project/service need as a Work Request (WR) in eRETA (only 5 required data elements) and send to GSA,
- GSA will assign PM via RETA and customer will be notified by email who their GSA PM is,
- work on requirements with GSA PM,
- fill out page 1 of the PDF 2957 Form (using the WR number eRETA assigned earlier as the RWA number),
- sign it with pen and ink or the digital signature option,
- Receipt and Acceptance will vary based on which signature option selected.

#### 4) Entirely Electronic Data Entry and Signature - 100% electronic

- "contact" GSA by entering the project/service need as a Work Request (WR) in eRETA (only 5 required data elements) and send to GSA,
- GSA will assign PM via RETA and customer will be notified by email who their GSA PM is,
- work on requirements with GSA PM,
- return to eRETA and complete all data entry fields that correspond to page 1 of the 2957 Form,
- select the digital signature option and enter the email address of the customer signatory authority in the appropriate field,
- select "Send to GSA" button to route customer completed portion of RWA to GSA,
- Customer signatory authority will receive email to apply digital signature to the RWA.

NOTE: Customer signatory authority will receive email to sign RWA after all data in eRETA and RETA (equivalent of pages 1 and 2 of the 2957 Form) is entered and validated by GSA. RWA acceptance happens once both digital signatures (customer and GSA) are captured and automatically sent back to RETA.

#### For Additional Questions the following resources are available:

- Navigate to <u>www.gsa.gov/ereta</u> to apply for access and for additional eRETA training resources including user guides, promo guides, and FAQs
- Email the <a href="mailto:COPBSApp@gsa.gov">COPBSApp@gsa.gov</a> with questions or issues about logging into the external Portal (effectively any part of the log-in process before getting into eRETA itself)
- Email us at <a href="mailto:eRETA@gsa.gov">eRETA@gsa.gov</a> with questions about using or navigating eRETA (once inside the application itself)